

News

from the Illinois Commerce Commission

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Stakeholders to provide ICC policymaking guidelines for future Illinois electricity restructuring

CHICAGO – The Illinois Commerce Commission today will be receiving reports containing a comprehensive set of guidelines to consider as the regulatory body ponders what the future of electricity competition will look like in the state.

The recommendations followed an unprecedented effort launched by the ICC last February to engage all stakeholders in a discussion of the issues facing Illinois' electric industry. The transition period mandated by the Illinois Electric Service Customer Choice and Rate Relief Law of 1997 comes to an end in 2006.

The law provided a gradual transition to customer choice starting with large customers in 1999 and phasing in business and residential customers. Residential customers in Illinois received rate decreases and utilities began a ten-year rate freeze that expires in December 2006.

What happens after 2006 is the focus of the ICC's Post 2006 Initiative. Earlier this year, Chairman Edward Hurley asked Commissioner Erin O'Connell-Diaz to lead this effort.

"We have been working hard all summer to examine the issues from all angles," O'Connell-Diaz said. "Restructuring is no easy task. We want to make sure we address potential problem areas as we move forward toward a more permanent competitive model that benefits all customer groups."

The ICC has provided a forum for all issues to be thoroughly debated and discussed. Commissioner Kevin Wright has been managing the Post 2006 wholesale electricity issues and Commissioner Lula Ford has been overseeing energy assistance and low-income issues.

Utilities, consumer advocates, independent power producers and energy marketers are among the stakeholders who participated in five working groups that submitted presentations. All key stakeholder interests were represented. The reports are available at the ICC and on the Internet at www.icc.state.il.us.

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